
Education and Defense

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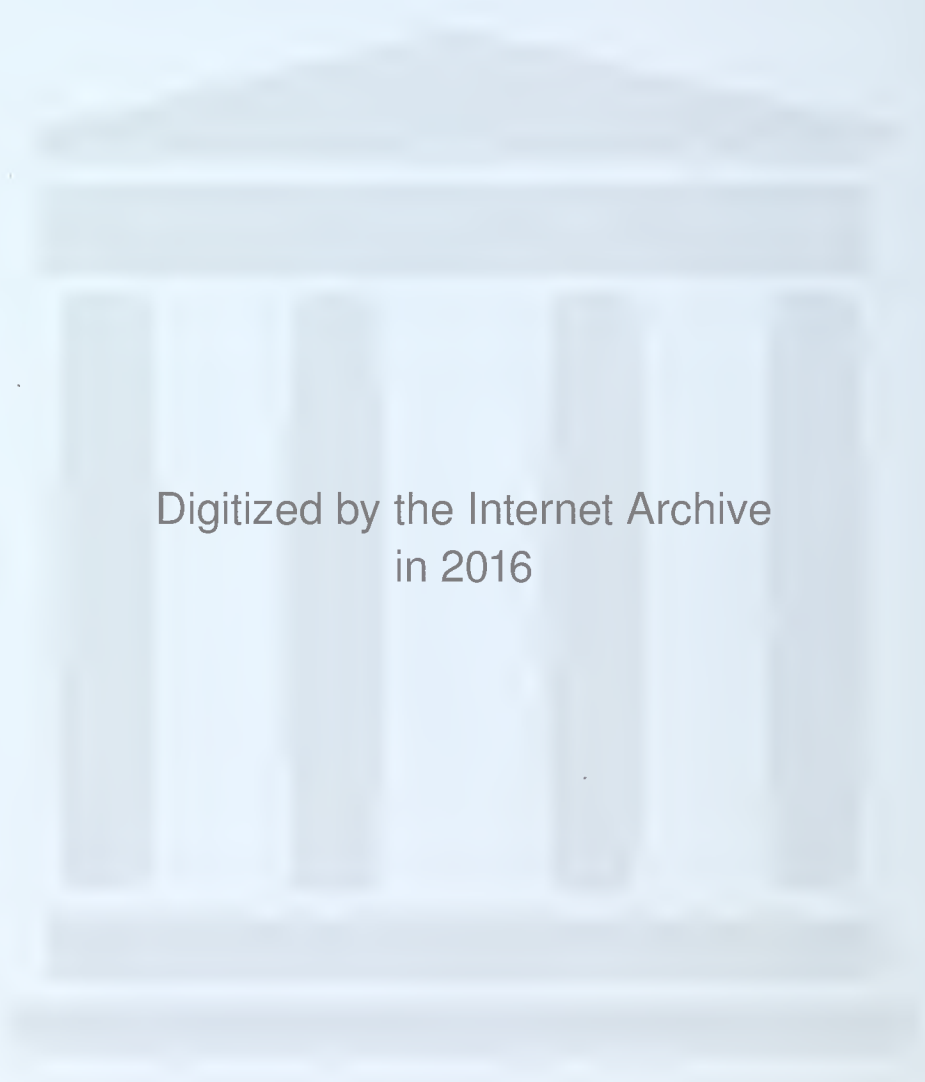
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EDUCATION AND DEFENSE

by Dr. Francis B. Haas

In the American form of Government, National Defense and Education are closely interwoven in the broad pattern of democracy. The purpose of this leaflet is to point out briefly some of the activities by which the educational forces of Pennsylvania are meeting the immediate needs of the present emergency.

Public Instruction Training Program

Never in the past have nations been called upon to handle such highly specialized weapons as those used by the modern mechanized armies. The scientific perfection and efficiency of these weapons are, of course, dependent upon the men who plan them, develop the raw materials, and finally assemble them for use at the front. The capabilities of these men are largely a result of their experience and training.

No country, regardless of its wealth in man-power or natural resources, or both of them, can hope to stand in war or peace without skilled craftsmen. Pennsylvania realized this as far back as 1913 when the first State Vocational Training Act was passed by the General Assembly and this type of education was given a trial. Its subsequent development was undoubtedly accountable for the ease with which the State was able to coordinate its own vocational activities with the National Defense Program.

Indeed, Pennsylvania's Federally aided Re-training Program had been pointed toward the requirements of National Defense before the Federal Defense Act became effective. It was thus possible to transfer four thousand (4000) men already in training from the State Re-training Program to the Federal Program; thereby forming the nucleus of enrollment for the national emergency. State funds were then used for other needed phases of re-training contributing to the general defense program.

Notwithstanding this transfer, there are fifty-seven (57) centers where Day Trade Classes of Pennsylvania's regular Vocational Training is administered to twenty-one thousand two hundred fifty-four (21,254) students. The Evening Trade Extension Program is provided in seventy-two (72) centers for thirty-six thousand one hundred seventy-six (36,176) adult employed workers. These figures indicate a total of fifty-seven thousand four hundred thirty (57,430) students who are being prepared by our State Program for their part in National Defense. Approximately eight thousand (8000) of this present enrollment will be graduated at the close of the current school year in June. For the vacancies caused by the graduation of these students, an additional eight thousand (8000) men and boys can be

taken from the waiting lists and enrolled in training classes during the summer months.

Also it must be borne in mind that with the close of the schools for the summer vacation, the facilities and equipment which have been utilized for the State's regular Vocational Training Courses will be available for training other persons in our National Defense Program. In this manner, the National Defense Program in Pennsylvania can reach its maximum enrollment during the summer months; and it is anticipated that by the end of June 1941, probably fifty thousand (50,000) or more persons will have enrolled in the Pre-employment Refresher and Supplementary Training group, seven thousand five hundred (7500) in the Rural Out-of-School and Civilian Conservation Corps groups, and more than twenty-thousand (20,000) in the National Youth Administration Work Project group.

The enrollment in these three groups at present is indicated by the following tables:

Program No. 1—Pre-employment Refresher and Supplementary—	17,326
Program No. 2—National Youth Administration—	9,844
Program No. 3—Out-of-School Youth and Civilian Conservation Corps—	7,004

Program No. 1

The Pre-employment Refresher and Supplementary Training is now being administered in seventy-two (72) centers and furnishes training for five hundred fifty-five (555) classes. Some idea of the efficiency of the courses in this program can be shown by the fact that eighteen thousand two hundred sixty-eight (18,268) individuals have already received instruction; of this number placements in defense jobs in industry are reported to be fourteen thousand two hundred twenty-seven (14,227) from the first of July 1940 to the first of April in the present year 1941.

Many Vocational Machine Shops in Pennsylvania are operating on a twenty-four hour-a-day schedule, and despite the three-shift schedule in these shops, defense industries are calling for more and more trained men. The State Employment Office, through its studies, indicates that fifty percent of the training needs in the State are located in the Philadelphia area, twenty-five percent in the Pittsburgh area, and twenty-five percent scattered elsewhere in the Commonwealth. There are forty-two (42) large industries in Pennsylvania which absorb ninety percent of the training needs.

Program No. 2

This Defense Training Program is expanding rapidly. Training for this group, as of April 1941, was being carried on in forty-seven (47) centers in Pennsylvania with a total of nine thousand eight hundred forty-four (9,844) persons enrolled in two hundred sixty-six (266) classes. Due to the fact that the National Youth Administration instruction includes not only ex-

tension training, supplementary to work experience, but also training to aid in occupational adjustment and to enlarge the civic and vocational intelligence of youth; courses are being conducted in many fields—including trade and industry, homemaking, agricultural, distributive, and commercial education. Emphasis upon the proper adjustment of youth, as well as upon specialized training for jobs essential to national defense, is important in the picture of national preparedness.

Program No. 3

The Out-of-School Youth and Civilian Conservation Corps Defense Program has advanced in Pennsylvania to the limit possible with the available funds, which have been used to establish one hundred ninety-two (192) centers, where three hundred seventy-three (373) classes are conducted for seven thousand and four (7,004) enrollees. If more funds should become available, there are approximately one hundred ten (110) additional training class applications awaiting approval, of which about thirty-five (35) are re-applications where training programs have been completed and the re-opening of classes for new students is being sought. Most re-applications in this group are for courses in metal-working and automotive instruction. Enrollees from the Civilian Conservation Corps are instructed in one hundred (100) centers for approximately twenty-one hundred (2,100) boys. While this part of the program started January 1941, more than two hundred (200) trainees have been placed in jobs. In a measure, this comparatively large turn-out of trainees has been due to the type of instruction and the instructors who for the most part were men of considerable experience as garage mechanics, cabinet makers, and machine tool operators. The acumen which they were able to apply to their work with the students facilitated short training periods in many cases.

To summarize, more than one hundred thousand (100,000) youth and adults in Pennsylvania have received instruction of various types through the regular National Defense Programs during the past year. Congress has provided more than four million dollars (\$4,000,000) for the cooperation of the schools in Pennsylvania with the Federal Government in the National Defense Program. While the number of trainees might be considered an adequate year's out-put for war industries, yet when one realizes the intricacies of each fighting plane, bomber, tank, armored car, anti-craft gun, machine gun, and large caliber long-range rifles which are necessary to equip a mechanized army in the field today; the tremendous need for trained men in the drafting room, tool making, and the assembly lines can be more readily understood. An army is no better than its mechanization, and the mechanization is no better than the men who build it. This fact places a vital responsibility upon the "lad who makes it."

In addition to the training for specific defense work, the time is opportune

to emphasize the fact that National Defense implies the continuation of the regular program of education, and developmental opportunity which is the birthright of The American must not, during a period of emergency, undervalue the spiritual and cultural needs of our citizenry. These are many and varied.

Direct Federal Training Program

Among the important activities contributing to National Defense not administered directly through the Department of Public Instruction are the following on a college level:

- a. The Civil Aeronautics Administration has units in forty (40) institutions
- b. The Engineering Defense Program has units in ten (10) institutions
- c. The Reserve Officers Training Corps has units in twelve (12) institutions

These activities are providing specific training for thousands of college students. A more complete picture of the Defense Training Program will be found in a bulletin recently compiled by the United States Office of Education under the Federal Security Agency entitled "Defense Job Training."

Health Education in relation to National Defense

In view of the many rejections resulting from physical examinations for Selective Service, the Health Program in the schools has assumed outstanding importance. Frequently the first indication of health defects are discernible during the public school age. The Health Program in the public schools is directed toward the rectification of these defects. Many of the Selective Service rejections are caused by defective eyes, teeth, tonsils and diet. These are also the most common faults discovered during school age and recommendations for their treatment and correction are made to the parents and guardians in accordance with the program advocated by the Department of Public Instruction and the Department of Health.

Of course, the most important phase of the entire Health Program is co-ordination between the home and the school. It is clearly evident that the recommendations of school doctors and nurses are futile unless the disposition of the parents is to accept the advice and consultation of the school health authorities. In the light of the demands of the present emergency upon all members of a family, the health of the children is an important factor definitely related to the attitude and capabilities of the adult actually engaged in defense work.

Finally, because speed is one of the prime requisites of the present National Defense Program, time lost from industry because of physical defects which may be corrected assumes more than ordinary importance. Recog-

nizing this fact, Pennsylvania school and health authorities are bending every effort to instill in pupils and parents the necessity of attention to defects and the formation of proper health habits.

The American Way of Life

Inasmuch as free speech and freedom of the press are enjoyed and jealously coveted in The American Way of Life, the views of virtually any resident or citizen, or any group of residents or citizens in this country, regardless of race, creed or color, can be expressed. For this reason, it is essential that a sense of insight and discrimination be developed to a higher degree in this country than in any other country in the world. This discrimination must necessarily cover a field comprised of newspapers, magazines, books, motion pictures, and the radio. Since the rapid growth of the motion picture industry, radio enterprise and magazine publishing brings all kinds and types of propaganda as well as sound informational material to the notice of students, guidance relating to the types of material to be seen and heard is an important educational activity. This requires patient, tactful direction on the part of teachers as well as sympathetic cooperation in the home. It is obvious that if students without guidance are left to the mercy of attractive propaganda with emotional appeal, subversive activities can and will find a fertile field. The ear-marks of propaganda must be recognizable to the student, in order that "government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

